Dec.

My dear Sue,

I sent a prodigious long letter, details of journal, from Munich last Sunday, & hope it reached you safely; for I should be vexed to have it lost, after all the trouble taken to write it, & its covering to queen & so in writing a part of your travels — And yet so many in my narration, I could not remember how many things I had forgotten to put in! — But there would be no end of writing, if I tried to put in all that has interested me — I must skip some things.

We had a very fresh wind yesterday & night, indeed almost too much — The boat is too large to move like the sea — It is very nice to get on & we made a fine run of 20 miles in 24 hours; but for peace & quiet the Inland rivers are best both mother & Pater, & except for feeling the land labour & the machinery is very nice. One can get on shore ten times a day for a walk or tea, which is very important to mother. And when there is a good wind, of course no time must be lost, & we do not stop except to take in fuel for the engines. We pay for our food just as in a hotel, & times to pay for her to catch up, as being the larger boat we had much faster — The Rhine proposed all sorts of names for her, as they

to me like hers, Olivia suggests she should be called "the Drawback"! — Someone else suggests "the Ark", so the Howland's ~~boat~~ is the "Heron", & we are the "Ibis" — "goose" might be invidious. — We ran aground Saturday night, what with the rapid current & strong wind, & the constantly changing [illegible] in the river bed. But these bumps & pats are no unusual things in a Nile voyage, & our boat being a large, one & rather heavily laden, we have our full share. Sometimes the men can get her off with poling; but when too tight, they strip & go overboard & lift her bodily through the sand, with such a groaning sigh in time, it is sad to hear. Poor fellows! they were in the water [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] were the same, [illegible] [illegible] by the clusters. [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] in the town to [illegible] the letter, & make [illegible] [illegible], &c. — [illegible] were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. We [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], as we were to stop in the aft[illegible] & see the tombs of Beni Hassan; they are nearly as old as the [illegible] [illegible] very [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] & customs & arts of those times, & Charles said would be [illegible] interesting [illegible] [illegible] seen as many tombs as we could [illegible].

before [illegible] [illegible] so just after [illegible], we [illegible] in the face of the hills of rock, the [illegible] [illegible], in which above we saw these square holes, & thro. the glass, from our boat, could see that there was a porch & columns, & a door. — The Howlands were there, before us, for when we took the Undine in tow we could not sail fast. —

Jan. 1st. '69. —

A most happy new year to you all! It does not seem New Year at all in this warm air, the early [illegible], so that New Year wishes seem strange & out of place. And yet they give me a sort of home sick feeling & such a longing to see you & give my greetings in person! And so long, to get news of you again! Our last home news was Nov. 18th. — [illegible] [illegible] until we get to Thebes [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible] shore [illegible] [illegible] were [illegible] up the mountain side, [illegible] were the tombs of Beni Hassan. — As soon as boats were seen to be landing, donkeys & their drivers came rushing down, [illegible] one, then two or three, then [illegible], till five men came [illegible] [illegible] even when we went to shore, [illegible] comes a little [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] his [illegible] garment [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] he must have seen we were all provided, but there might be a chance! Capienza vociferated & gesticulated, & [illegible] the sailors began to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], & the ladies were mounted, the gentlemen [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]!

an instinct to be picturesque. The sail was lovely to-night: the sun setting golden in front of us, the moon silver, these rocky hills pink, then cold grey, then pink again in the after-glow – the moon-light is something more bright & beautiful than I ever saw before, one sees colours in it! I looked out in the night, & the distant hills were yellow, the sky blue, & from the horizon behind the [illegible] came a strange yellow light! – We [illegible] the [illegible] at [illegible], but she meant to take advantage of the fine wind & [illegible] start at once; she must stop at [illegible], the next day [illegible] to bake bread, & so must we – But some [illegible] to post letters & [illegible] to [illegible] – so as soon as we [illegible], donkeys [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] picked the [illegible], & [illegible] we [illegible] for the [illegible] to come up, Mr. [illegible], [illegible] & Mr. [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] some ½ mile inland – Meantime the [illegible] & [illegible] went [illegible] to call on the [illegible] boat; another one we had been in company with all day, [illegible] Mrs. Parsons & her sister from [illegible] arrived & we found [illegible] at the bank, Mr. [illegible] & [illegible] of New York, [illegible] Cairo some three or four days before us – Presently [illegible] [illegible] with Mr. Parsons, & wife & sister followed, Mr. Booth's son came to thank our gentlemen for [illegible] [illegible], & [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], especially [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] with the same [illegible] rock. Here we came upon bare rock one saw often, square holes, mummy pits, all empty [illegible]. [illegible] the rocks were more [illegible], – in the face were cut square holes, small doorways leading into square compartments, generally quite bare; though one has a little niche, over it the old Egyptian emblem of life; & each side the Christian emblem, shewing it was used as a chapel by early Christians, who combined the sacred emblems of both religions. ☥☥☥ – Little holes cut in the stone seemed to be for hanging up lamps. In corners were deep, deep square holes, all cut in the solid rock, recessed some 10 feet & more down, for the receptacle of the mummy – Presently some of the chambers had painting on the wall – Farther on the [illegible] became more architectural, presently came regular porticoes supported on columns, one had [illegible] [illegible], one the capitals papyrus buds – The inner walls were covered with paintings [illegible], [illegible] saw some [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] it was [illegible], [illegible] to trace the figures [illegible] [illegible] round the top of the chamber [illegible] a [illegible] ornamental border in [illegible], where the colours [illegible] quite bright blue, scarlet, green, white; then came rows & rows of figures, lines of women playing at ball in all sorts of attitudes, men wrestling, then trades, blowing glass, making pottery &c., hunting, fishing, taking birds in nets, a funeral procession, visitors coming

the tribute paid to the great king, [illegible] Nile
Nile its were reaped in manifold ways of gratitude for; then
rest of his life, by priests! The mild river stayed down, finding
all the tribe new things - The tombs are all covered from
the cold ice, & the frost & sand has filled them up so far,
but the true real entrance is open - and please
remember all these pictures & scenes there painted, those
tomb hollowed & sealed, before - [illegible] went into Egypt!
It seemed quite impossible to realize - And there was
something to me mysterious & pathetic in these wonderful &
elaborate tombs, these immense pits where the body seemed
so securely hid, for the pits in the rocky was always kept hollow
for mummied bodies & the hundreds & thousands all
long this great valley! What was the idea that prompted it?
Reverence for the body? an idea of its resurrection? Security?
And then so long ago these carefully preserved remains probed
& burnt & cast out, or recklessly destroyed - I cannot help al-
ways going back to the individual - These famous tombs at
Beni Hassan were for some great king & well preserved; but
all the mountain-sides down this Nile valley, miles & miles,
& miles & miles we might well call it the great valley of
the dead! - The grand Mr. & Mrs. Woodland at the tombs
& all came down together, & with many kind words from
them & with Agnes - Monday we had a fine drive, the
mountains coming close down making the river boundary on
the east, the wind still fresh - Tuesday was a beautiful day,
soft & clear, the wind still fresh & requiring careful steering
when we came close under the cliffs, dark spots in them
marking the entrance & tombs - In the afternoon came a
sudden bend at right angles, our boat was near the middle
of the river, a great sand bar ran out making a point, &
rounding it was a ticklish matter - Our men stripped
their white drawers & waded & [illegible] & towed round,
for the wind was like a wind & direction - Just as we were
close on the shallow, there were dark figures wading through
the water in the distance, singing their bathing song, came
an indistinct sound of wind & tune, [illegible]! We were aground!
The reis scolded, the steersman frowned, the crew left the boat
answered, those in the water cried & [illegible] called, & came
back & lifted the boat on their shoulders with their mighty cry of
Ayee, & after a deal of labor, we were afloat again, & then
such a scolding & gesticulating & festive eating all round! Then
calm succeeded near Assiut, but the Reis muttered,
peace was restored - The sailors have taken their turns
& hung their drawers to dry, & when they put their
turbans, began & trade on deck, pitching pole vault &
for stripped & their shaven heads, their beauty was wonderful
developed - The hair superstitious & not a razor ever
[illegible] otherwise not so well made - But this crew, blue gown
& these white turbans are wonderfully becoming, & it seems

walls were square holes with this open lattice, making a nice ventilation - The ceiling was high, & the open rafters colored - I have been particular in the description, for I don't think I am likely to get into another Egyptian private house - Well, we seated ourselves in solemn row on the divan, Mrs. Amory, Charles, Olivia, Lou Schuyler, Mrs. Howland, mother, myself, turning the corner Dr. Gray, Mrs. H. & George - The Consul & dragoman & attendant sat on the opposite chairs. He smiled blandly, & an ~~attendant~~ servant in full Turkish dress, brot three bouquets of roses & large leaved myrtle from the table & presented them, the Consul apologizing that he had not expected so many, & so there were not eno. Then the servant brot a waiter with little cups of strong coffee, one to each - Then came long pipes, chibouques, for the gentlemen, little brass plates set on the floor for them to rest in. We supposed that was all, but the consul sent out once or twice, & presently two more bouquets of roses were brot; meantime we said polite things thro' the dragoman, & enquired after his family - Then came a tray with a small glass for each of a sort of spiced wine, & sweet cakes covered with sugar, white towels were laid in our laps & we must each take, there was no refusing, - & finish too, for I had left a little in my glass & the man refused to come over until I had drank all! We were puzzled what to do with all our cakes, some wrapped them in their napkins, some few eat them, & I & some others managed to get a piece into our pockets, for they were more than we could possibly eat! When we got up to go, & say farewell, when in came a little girl six years old, in a purple silk dress brocaded with gold, huge, red silk drawers hiding

[illegible] we [illegible] called [illegible] late to do any [illegible] The [illegible] for we [illegible] up beneath a very high bank to wait for the [illegible] and a most [illegible] in a [illegible] seemed [illegible] sitting ashore. We climbed along the outside the boat, crossed the [illegible] boat held by the sailors, a chair was brot for a step, & the sailors helped haul us up the high mud bank. One of the crew with a long staff, always accompanies our walks on shore. We struck inland for a village we saw, Dr. Gray & the 3 ladies, & winding round the mud walls, & by some bricks freshly made & left to dry in the sun, & a man in a corner [illegible] with a distaff, we made our way into the village among some men, one of whom, squatted on a large stone, & had in front of him baskets of [illegible], a few dates, &c. Dr. Gray stopped to get something [illegible] the old man [illegible], & we were soon surrounded [illegible] crowd of faces [illegible] [illegible] the gesture of the old man to Dr. [illegible] crowd was rather [illegible] along the street a little inside the town, [illegible] followed by [illegible] a hundred! The men [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] we [illegible] said to Ibrahim, as the ship, was [illegible] accompanied us. And as we stood [illegible] for the river, one [illegible] asses, tried to tell us "[illegible]" was [illegible] in the [illegible] direction. Dr. Gray said that was to [illegible] for some great "[illegible]" his Harem a walk! "We must know our boat is called "[illegible] Harem" - We sailed again & not [illegible] to [illegible] breeze in the morn. So we did not get into Assiout just as we finished lunch. The Consuls came in at 4 P.M., & their crew [illegible] rowed over the river - We must also stop for our crew to make head - Mr. Rowland came on, as we drew up at his side, & say the American Consul, a Copt I believe at Assiout, & we see him, I can remember again & later [illegible] a mile [illegible] on, & to his house - Would we go first? Mother & I thot we would only walk through the town & come back when we got to the house, as we thot we were too large a party & come all down on the Consul - So we set our head, & presently they said he had arrived at the Rowlands's boat, where he was entertained with pipes & coffee, & we meantime were introduced all round on the bank - Then we set off, quite a procession, headed by the Consul & his attendant, (Dr. Gray not [illegible] his own) & his servant, & the Rowlands's Dragoman, Hadji Ismail. The streets were narrow & the shops crowded, & we were wonderfully stared at, such a lot of us, 10 Ladies! - The town was like most other Egyptian towns, the houses mud, & set often two stories, & with close lattice windows, the better ones of sun burnt brick - Some had knockers of iron on the doors, & set the rude wooden bolt - And some streets only dwelling houses - No windows on the ground floor. The Consuls house had the American arms over the door, & "American Consulate" in English - And suddenly we found ourselves there, & must all go in - We went through a passage, past a sort of reception room on the ground floor opening from an open court yard, up [illegible], & came into a good sized room. The floor was covered with straw matting, & a divan ran along two sides, one the front side, where were three long windows, close lattice, I suppose, but they were covered with muslin curtains, white muslin printed with Kensington sprigs, & a little scalloped valence at the top, opposite was the door, & two windows, looking into the court yard, & similarly curtained. Along that side of the room was a row of rush bottomed chairs (quite pretty ones, as we have in our boat), just as close as they could stand; just in the corner of the divan was a little window in a recess, 1½ a foot wide & two feet high, one of the beautifully carved wooden lattice work for sash, opening like a door, from which one could take little peeps into the street - One side the divan, & behind & above it little recesses with little carved cornices round them, [illegible] just such as you see in Lane's pictures; one larger quite a cupboard, the others only a little shelf - They were called red & green & the opposite side the room, the same recesses, a tall clock, regular old fashioned, but not going, a pier table with glass candle-sticks with drops & shades, two tables rather pushed one side, & covered with calico, one flounced - Round the top of the

the gentlemen, it would be pleasanter to be together. Some of the ladies & Mrs. Armory accompanied Sapuenza into the town to post the letters & did some shopping, buying Turkish coffee-cups in the bazaar. The P.O., they said, was a common mud hut, no one there, so they went to the Consul, & gave them tea with especial charges. We had been to see Mr. Rowland in the morn. for all our names. So perhaps we shall appear as some most distinguished party, two Generals & a Professor.

We had a lovely sail to Beziguance, & a walk on shore, seeing a Turkish & a Phadoxy, & a Plantation of many palms before the party returned, very much delighted with their excursion. The temple has been recently excavated, & the carvings on the walls are beautifully fresh, & Charles found a tablet he had heard of, with a list of Egyptian monarchs, which is supposed to them come right in their succession. We sailed at night into some bay, Sapuenza. Generally find ourselves sailed up to the bank in the morn. for the wind generally dies away at sun-down & at 3 or 4 at night. So those who are energetic, get on shore for a walk before breakfast; & Mother, you may be sure, since Sunday we were teaching, & the Rowlands came on for service, & we had one of our Church's sermons again. We got a little sail in the afternoon, but pulled up again at sun-down & had a walk. This part of the Nile valley is much greener than about Cairo, I suppose it is the nature of the crops. And it is wonderful to see the patient labor with which the water is raised, three shadoofs one above another to lift it up from the river, & the land is laid out in little squares, ridges

[illegible] her feet & wrapped in a blue lace veil covered with silver spangles, & fringed with them. She opened her veil & showed a pretty dark face, with black eyes, large ear-rings of gold coin. She came to each lady, kissed her hand & then touched her forehead with it. I am sorry she did not come earlier to see more of her. She was the Consul's daughter. Three blacks had been looking in at the door. The very blackest shapes I ever saw or imagined, & one in a blue robe, red slippers & long staff preceded us. The Consul went too & showed us near by a Coptic church, very curious & interesting. Quaint & curious pictures after the conventional style of the Greek Church, where you know the Madonna & Child & all sacred subjects are painted according to an exact rule. St. George is the patron St. of Egypt (which means Horse), & there were plenty of pictures of St. George & the dragon. Otherwise all it did not look much like a church, for it was divided into three parts by carved wooden screens, one set reaching quite to the roof, with doors in them, & colored panels, & there was a curious contrast between the delicacy & beauty of some of these geometrical carvings, & the rudeness of the carpenter work. The attendant priest was like any other Arab, only a black turban. The consul left us here, but one of his blacks in tights red slippers, blue gown & red fez pioneered us outside the town back to our boat. The Nile in many places was like a mud-puddle, which is town carrying with them into the water to build up its banks. And the course of the river changes a good deal. Girgeh has been a good deal

rushed. and & the party stopped & ate & mosque. half in ruins & it was rather risky, as I did not try, but could see the slender stone pillars, some evidently appropriated from earlier ruins, & the carved wooden pulpit & staircase, from where I stood - The minaret & rest peculiar but graceful, & it seemed a pity when a little masonry would restore & preserve, none should do anything - But this is not the habit of the land - Everything goes to ruin as time decays it - But time, thanks to the absence of snow & rain & frost, works very much more slowly than with us, & so the wonderful preservation of all these old monuments - When we got back to our boats the Rowlands looked very gay & pretty, for they had asked us all to tea on New Year's Eve, & the Consul was asked to come too. So their own servant, an Italian, & their dragoman had dressed the upper deck with palm branches, many little lanterns all round & oranges between, which let me tell him is a very pretty ornament - Some more American flags too - I was too tired after our walk & drove in the boat, & Walter rode off too, but the rest went, except Mr. Amory, & came back shortly a most amusing time - It looked very gay & pretty when lighted & a Coffa lantern at the top of each of the yards, & some rockets & a Bengal light were sent off on shore - The Consul came, his attendants, & the chief of the Catholic priests with another, & presently down came the Turkish governor & suite - Told the dragoman he should have let him know the party were there - The dragoman answered, the governor, "he should have found out such a distinguished party were at Gerjeh!" And altogether snubbed him, they say - Mr. Rowlands had rowed the deck & seats with gay blankets; & tea & coffee & sweetmeats & fancy cakes were served, and Lizzie & Mr. Rowland said the play at the rockets was not amusing - The gentlemen, (except Mr. Amory,) & another were to be off very early next morn. to make an excursion inland to see the old temples of Abydos, so they did not wait to see the old year out & the new year in - Next morn. they had breakfast at 6 & Lizzie & I peeped from our window to see the setting off - They were to have started at 6½ but through the governor's servant was scattering on the bank, arrayed in the fullest of white Turkish drawers, red jacket, sash & fez, & pistols 2 yd. long & Malaysian stuck in his belt, & the governor's man, who was to be guide, was there in similar garb, with two pistols & Malaysian also, the donkeys did not appear - But later & while, scampering & shouting they came, & the consul into them, & at length they started at 7¼ G. Rowland, Dr. Gray, Charles, Joseph & Mr. Ellis, the guide on horseback, the two men on foot with guns, Ahmed, Jem the dragoman & Angelo to wait on our party, the saddle bags with lunch across the donkeys, each donkey has a donkey boy, & some of them carried skins with water, held up to the whole run - A skin to hold water is made of brown sheep's hide & is used everywhere, something like the Malaga ones, but not as graceful in shape - Abydos was about 4 hours ride from Gerjeh. We were to wait until the bread was baked, & then to set off & sail to Belanie, which was only two hours ride from Abydos - So we ladies left & Mr. A. seated ourselves together, then after a little walk on shore we went for Mrs. Rowland, who was to pass the day & sail with us, for if any delay came about our reaching

than hay on root, over the [illegible] irrigated fields at first, then on the country road; meeting occasionally some travellers, or laden donkeys, once in a while a camel. The Egyptians are decidedly a locomotive people, I would say; for three high roads, one can see almost all the time from the boat, the ridge running along each side the river bank, & the figures standing out finely against the sky, are rarely without passengers. It requires a good deal of imagination to make it the 5th of January, for the sun was rosy, the palms in the distance (by the way we have left the Nonus palms) & the sugar cane growing, & I was heat given, & sun umbrellas a necessary! — The sites of ancient towns are marked by huge mounds, & the temples & ruins must be dug out, & only partly, so that one sees generally, imposing effects from a distance. The pylon of the great temple at Dendera stood up clear, but it is greatly ruined, another one however, stands well. We saw the mounds as we started, & had them in sight all the way, rude & ugly, we came cantering & bobbing & scampering up to the pylon, passed through, & then a long brick passage way, & suddenly came close on the rows columns with the multiplied heads of the goddess as capitals, of which you have seen so many photos & engravings. We had to descend by steps into the building, the roof of which, only now down, is cleared away. I shall not attempt description, for I could not give you an idea, I am not equal to it. I can only say what impressed me. The size is just a greater than I expected, & imposing, as well as the [illegible] spaces, & [illegible] channels between. & carry the water by flood canals in turn. — Monday afternoon we reached Qenneh, & all took donkeys & went into the town to see the making of pottery, for which the place is famous. Such a scene as choosing donkeys always is! As soon as they see a dahabeah approaching, they rush for the bank, & the only way to get any order, or choice, or power to move even, is to be the first, as for Lapsing & lay about a little with his whip. I never when I first saw him on shore, what he had in his hand, but soon learned it was a long, flexible, leather whip which he carries coiled up. I don't think he hurts them much, but it drives them back till he has chosen his donkeys & the side-saddles are put up & put on. The gentlemen ride on the native saddles, like a high cushion in front. We are a funny group when mounted. Charles rides stately & spare, Mr Amory has a very sober look, & wearing spectacles & sitting his animal as if it grew to him. Flora says, "she never knew what was his true position before"! As for George look at Jones in Brown, Jones & Robinson, when a rear view is given of them going up a hill, & you have some recollection! Whether he always chooses the smallest donkey, or any donkey looks always smallest between his long legs, such is the effect. Mother sits big & easy, Lee & Chanler ride as if riding a very small horse, & Flora being large & long, we look as if we were on something too small for us. The motion is very easy, at first, not yet wearying after awhile. Partly, I think with myself, that I feel the weight so much on the left, & fearing the saddle may turn I am making a constant effort. Mr Gray is always at ease, & has especially caused the Dragoman Hassan of his throat, it is the only way in which I can describe it, up to

the arrival of the donkeys. Dolly [illegible] "Dick, Dick!" - to imagine us all scampering off, Sapiringa & a sailor too on donkeys, & the donkeyboys screaming & shouting & jabbering after us, & all to make a stir in the town! It was quite a new sensation, & as we came in we passed the nicely mounted Europeans, mostly four-in-hands, two or three stories high, glass windows & green blinds, & gay patches of colour round the doors; one was the French Consulate, the other the French [illegible] - The bazaar was the usual dirty scene, only it was neater & more roomy looking, and there seemed a deal of trading going on - We could like to wander through it, one would, in fact - The whole town struck us as better built & cleaner than most we had seen, the people better dressed, & the children more healthy looking & some such pretty faces - The models are made of a fine clay, deep clay colour; we got past the shed where they were at work, & saw their own fashion theirs. Strange to say, I never in my life saw a potter's wheel before! And it was beautiful to see them mould & shape - smooth & line them - They made some pretty little ones like small flower vases, & we gave an order, & find executed when we come down - Then we went to see where they are baked. They are dried for days, & then put into these large but shaped forms of clay, the fire underneath & coming up through holes in the bottom, covered over & baked three or four hours. A brisk fire kept up, chiefly of chaff & such refuse; then cooled slowly - The Rowlands had joined us, & we rode back to the boats with a cool sunset, having the rare beauty of clouds, a cool sea & [illegible] before us - Hor. & Mrs. H. came in in the Eos to stay with us - We had a new swing donkey boy, by means

in this case a man of any age - who drives a donkey, & my boy was a man of some age - He announced himself to me as "Hassan, very good!" "very good donkey!" - And "yes, very good," "Mr. Pelican," made quite a stock of English to go upon - We were to go to Dendera, across the river, next morning, & he recommended himself for the trip - We had decided on an early breakfast for us, at 6½, (the sun rises at 6½) & the donkeys were ordered at sunrise, that being the time necessary if we wanted them at 6 - The first thing I heard when I got up was, "very good donkey!" from the high bank above, so Hassan at least was on hand - We all went the Rowlands too, & were rowed across the river in three boats - There we waited some time for the donkeys, who crossed by ferry; & a boat procession we made with us, Selim & from the Eos, Angelo from the Gazelle, & sailors, besides all the donkey boys & [illegible] Selim dressed himself up for such occasions, tucks his pantaloons in his long riding boots, winds a [illegible] round his fez, not quite enough for a turban, & wears it a little on one side with decidedly a rakish air - Selim next wears blue jacket & full drawers with red fez & sash, & Mrs. Rowland makes a nice bit of colour in a red jacket & a parasol lined & edged with green - Otherwise we are rather sombre in colours, dust parasols & dark skirts, except Clara & me who have linen over-skirts for riding - We have all covered our hats with white muslin & Rowland wears a broad-rimmed white straw, for the flies are very busy, needs a good deal of protection - It was a ride of two

head for the crew lying on deck. But it passed off. Evening very cloudy after sunset. It has been a fitful day for wind, sometimes we tracked, then sailed, then poled, then came the fresh wind & starting we all set aground, & so have now anchored 8 miles from Thebes, hoping a fresh wind may take us up tomorrow, & we shall get some home letters, how welcome for cannot know, until you have been so long without them. Love, &c.

Still on our way to Thebes. The wind dead ahead, so tracking; a quite fresh, & hard work. We have not yet decided whether to stop over Karnak, some thinking it would take off the edge of the smaller temples, & others thinking that they would like a glimpse at it now, before coming down, when we shall probably stop here ten days or a fortnight. I... all get no letters at Thebes writing Thebes notes — get all... as soon as we arrive & will bring them. But we can... Yesterday we passed from the Valley... Today we have... for filtering our Nile water are made. Our... very ugly, square box inside work bags closely sewed. A great many palm groves on here, — the... enamelled with their deathly smell. Just this. When the wind... blows, then... & morn, the... flying on every side... Here are more round topped trees, like ours, than I had thot for, sycamore figs, acacias, &c. so that the landscape lacks not trees. But good bye again for this time. Write much about all from your Ever loving Parents.

long succession of halls. And many rooms on the sides, utterly dark, so one can see no purpose in them. The carving on all much mutilated inside, chiefly by the early Christians. I can sympathize with the feeling which made them so close & idolatry, & when this worship had degenerated into vice & impurity, feel that they were helping to destroy the religion by destroying the outward symbols. But one must but regret it, & the Arabs having chosen to live & make smoky fires in these old temples, when one sees how the accumulated rubbish, now cleared away, has protected the sculpture. At one end the carving of figures & hieroglyphics has quite peak, & on the ceiling the colours still left. The very curious design in the ceiling, was a women's figure to bent as to encompass those sides, back one, feet & legs another, & outstretched arms & hands the third, the heavens encompassing all. The hands were wonderfully well done. I was amazed at the amount of carving. Every wall, no matter how obscure the passage, how often dark the rooms, covered & the ceiling. The outside has on the back, gigantic figures in outline, of Sesostris & her son, Isis & Osiris. I think the Eastern queen has a great deal of beauty. These, from having been Xtianized up, were very fresh. But the Arabs had made various work on the carving, plastering in stone reds in all the lines of cutting, & gradually spreading over the wall. There was a little temple behind, & another at one side, both partially clear... down the left of one we still the half baked brick were a

former village - For ages has been raised by one village after another
built over it, the mounds of rubbish are made of bricks & pottery
& dirt, & even rags & straw in some places, giving it to me, a modern
look, that takes away from the grandeur of the impression &
makes it difficult for me to fill my imagination with the
old times of its magnificence - There were some grand lion
sarcophagi on the sides & back - After we had wandered an
hour or some time, we found lunch ready for us in a pretty
little temple, resembling of a sepulchral court - A linen rug spread,
a table-cloth on that, rugs around, camp stools &c, some reclined
some sat in chairs, & the nice & abundant eatables were quickly
diminished - Then we left the attendants for their share. What
the donkey boys got I don't know - The donkeys without their
saddles, were all in the long passage, & rolled in the dust as refresh-
ment - The had a rug spread in front the building, & some laid
down & rest. I sat in Charles' arm chair & looked at the front,
& finding bits of colour here & there, could make out how it must
have been colored all over - But it was very hard to picture it,
all the gay mass it must have been - very gorgeous standing out against
this beautiful blue sky, but I cannot undertake to found as the
grain, natural colour of the stone - We set off again about 2, or
the sun came down pretty hot - As for dust I cannot undertake
it, we were never seen in the rainless land - Walking is frightfully
dirty work, you ride in a little closed, & only in the middle
of the river, are the horses free from an accumulation on things
flying about

They had a great time on Jem Howland's boat in the ev. of
ing, the three boats keeping so in company, there was
some little rivalry between the Arabs (?) & some bickering,
they could not be expected to share the darkness of the
cabins, so his dragoman chose to make peace by holding
a sheet, inviting the three - With solemn festivity, & then
a general conference of the three crews, I was dying down
& tired, so did not get out to see them all seated round
the immense pan, eating together, (the Captains had
their alone first,) but they said it was worth seeing - And
Pliny said they finished off by jinks & rows in a small
way & donkey one there, & giving the large pan & the
donkey boy & clear out! - Then the Nubian crew came on
to our boat with ours, & such a good time they had singing!
The chant is monotonous, sometimes one, sometimes in
chorus, & a queer little roar now & then together - The drum
parchment stretched over a wooden water pan one would
say, is beaten all the time; they have a, bushy tambourine
inlaid with mother of pearl, & he has a pair of little brass
balls, about as large as a silver dollar, on the thumb & middle
finger - A faccino & the Maltese waiters sang on the
other boat & some fourth Italian acts & the Sultan, so we
had a deal of music - Pan-o-rama they called the
very unusual thing with us, a cloudless sky, - it has been
lightly overcast all day - It rained a, after some hours calm,
so fresh a tree came up it even threatened rain - All the